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*Series Special Reports  
Family Farm*



## **REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE**

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**Results of Work Group Sessions  
August 16-17, 1978  
Des Moines, Iowa**

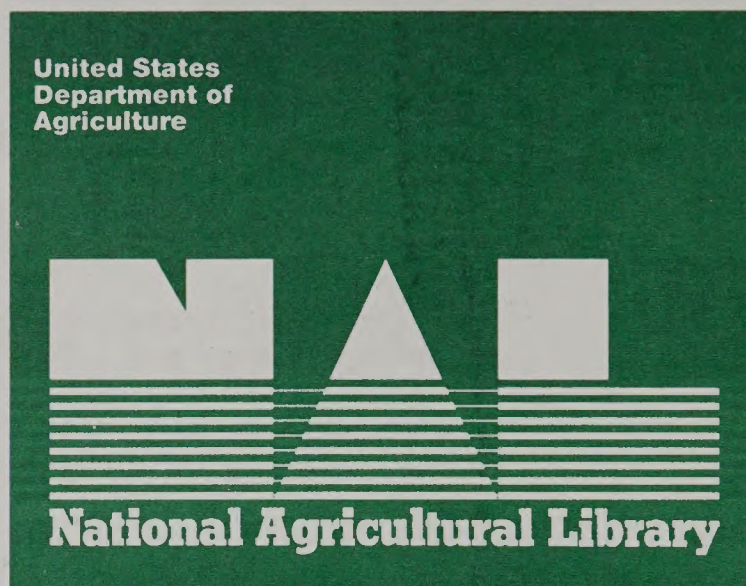
**Co-sponsored by:  
U.S. Department of Agriculture and  
Community Services Administration**



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

U. S. Department of

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for Conserva
- . Dale E. Hath  
Internationa
- . Alex P. Merc  
for Rural D
- . Howard Hjort  
Economics, P
- . Ned Bayley, Staff Assistant  
Secretary of Agriculture



Community Services Administration:

- . Graciela Olivarez, Director  
Community Services Administration

## STEERING COMMITTEE

Jerry Storey, Associate Director  
Community Services Administration

Carl Larson, Deputy Associate Administrator  
Farmers Home Administration, USDA

Ovid Bay, Coordinator of Conference  
Science and Education Administration, USDA

## REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Co-chairperson:

- . Ron Powers, Assistant Director  
Cooperative Extension Service  
Ames, Iowa
- . Don Ralston, Co-director  
Center for Rural Affairs  
Walthill, Nebraska

Liaison:

- . Marjorie Berninger, CSA, Washington, D. C.
- . Lynn Pickinpaugh, FmHA, Washington, D. C.



## REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

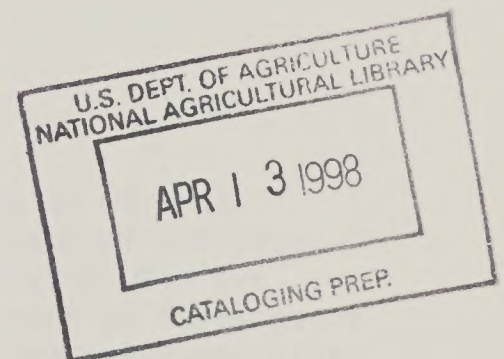
The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Community Services Administration (CSA) are co-sponsoring this regional small farms conference in cooperation with ACTION. The conference is designed to:

- Provide small farm operators an opportunity to identify problems that are important to their farm operations and families.
- Develop priority needs and suggest programs that will benefit small farm operators and their families.
- Identify what small farm operators need, as contrasted with what other farmers need.

Follow-up from the conference will include a regional report and national summary of the five conferences. The information and recommendations from the conferences will be used to determine what administrative changes need to be made in USDA and CSA, and as the basis for new legislation and an administration policy for small farmers.

This computer report was prepared by:

J. G. Massey, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas  
C. A. Fasick, U. S. Forest Service, Washington Office





RECEIVED  
JAN 10 1964  
FBI  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK  
SUBJECT: [illegible]

Re New York letter to Bureau dated 1/8/64.

Enclosed for the Bureau are two copies of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) dated and captioned as above.

The LHM contains information regarding the activities of [illegible] in New York City.

One copy of the LHM is being furnished to the New York Office for its files.

Very truly yours,  
[illegible signature]

[illegible typed name]

RECEIVED  
JAN 10 1964  
FBI  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



REGIONAL  
SMALL FARMS  
CONFERENCE

# THE SMALL FARM ISSUE

BOB BERGLAND, Secretary of Agriculture

For too long, we have heard predictions that the small farmer will soon become extinct as those farm families are forced from the land. It has been a trend, but I am committed to improve USDA programs to better serve the small farm family and halt that trend.

We believe the small farm family in America is basic to a healthy farm and rural economy.

We believe the farm family is still the basis of a desirable pattern for American agricultural and rural living in this nation.

We will be listening to the farmer delegates attending these Small Farm Conferences and to their suggestions and recommendations. There will be follow-up action where we can identify changes that need to be made to help small farmers.

GRACIELA OLIVAREZ, Director of Community Services Administration

The Community Services Administration, as the national advocate for the low-income and economically disadvantaged, recognizes the critical need to assist low-income farmers and their families in improving their economic condition and quality of life through resource mobilization, delivery of services and improved access to Federal, state and local services and programs.

SAM BROWN, Director of ACTION

In a large sense our futures are inseparable.

At ACTION we are committed to the notion that the revitalization of both rural and urban communities depends primarily on the development of policies and practices that are smaller in scale than those now associated with our government. This commitment to smallness embraces concepts such as development of technologies more useful to family farms, development of community-organized programs that rely more on people's energy and imagination than money and the scaling down of government to make it more responsive to the best interests of its citizens.

If you can stay small and, with some help from us, find a way to prosper then I believe our approach to problems will also succeed.



RUPERT CUTLER, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture  
for Conservation, Research and Education

We have programs of conservation, research and education for the small farm family. In spite of these programs, we are not reaching enough small farm families with conservation and research information through our educational channels.

Do small farm operators need conservation and research programs different from other farmers?

Do small farm families need a different educational approach--more one-to-one contact with a para-professional than group contact?

We expect the Small Farm Conference work groups of farmer delegates to provide guidelines to answer these and related questions with an indication of priority needs. Then, we can propose and move ahead with administrative and legislative changes.

DALE HATHAWAY, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture  
for International Affairs and Commodity Programs

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service conducts the USDA farm program for cost sharing programs with all farmers that install needed soil, water, workland and wildlife conserving practices. We will be very interested to see what the Small Farm Conferences can identify in the cost sharing programs that should be changed to better serve the small farm operator.

The Federal Crop Insurance Program provides farmers in counties where available with all-risk insurance that repays production costs of crop loss because of bad weather, insects, disease and other unavoidable natural causes. This program is structured to serve all farmers, and we welcome suggestions on how to extend the Federal Crop Insurance Program to more small farmers.

ALEX MERCURE, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development

Listening to the men and women and minorities who operate the small farms in America make the five regional Small Farm Conferences an opportunity for the Secretary of Agriculture and his staff to have grass roots input from the people needing help in the rural community.

We believe that rural development in the states is synonymous with improving the quality of living and increasing income for the small farm family.

The Department of Agriculture has rural development programs such as the loan programs of the Farmers Home Administration which are designed to aid the small farm operator. We anticipate the conferences will identify any inadequacies in programs that will help us make them more accessible for the small farmer. We will make every effort to change and initiate needed programs.

JOAN WALLACE, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration

This administration is interested in co-sponsoring conferences on small farm problems not because there are many small farms, but because they represent many people--over 60 percent of all farmers!



What we need to keep in focus is that people on these small farms live and toil, raise families, have hope and ambition, contribute to society, and produce food and fiber for the nation.

We prefer to think about the small farm problem as a matter of families--not statistics. We believe that the people who are in need of help also have some knowledge of how help might be structured to give the most benefit for the least dollars invested. In other words, we believe suggestions and counsel from small farm families can be highly beneficial in the decision and legislative process where USDA represents your concerns and needs. We are dedicated to providing equal opportunities for agricultural services.

HOWARD HJORT, Director of Economics, Policy Analysis and Budget

Information gathered from these regional conferences will help USDA's Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service improve Federal agricultural data systems to better serve the needs of small farmers. In addition, more knowledge about the characteristics and needs of the small farm operator and his family will help Department officials improve programs to increase family income from both farm and nonfarm sources.

Besides research, the Economics, Statistics and Cooperatives Service provides technical assistance to help farmers market their products and purchase supplies cooperatively. We hope that what we learn from these Conferences will enable us to make these programs more useful to small farmers.

We are committed to making every effort to see that our work serves the interests of small farm families,

JOHN LEWIS, Associate Director, Domestic Operations for ACTION

We are happy to be allied with the Department of Agriculture and the Community Services Administration for this important "listen and learn" conference. Both agencies have helped us to develop successful volunteer programs for rural America.

ACTION has volunteers in the field today assisting small farmers on production and marketing problems. Many more volunteers are working in rural areas to improve housing, education, recreation and health services and to provide help for the frail elderly.

There is still much to be done. We welcome your ideas and look forward to the development of dynamic solutions to problems of family farms.





# MIDWEST REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

## WORKING GROUP I

### FARM FAMILY LIVING - QUALITY OF LIFE

PROBLEM RANKS	PROBLEM DESCRIPTION	PROBLEM RATING
1	INFLATION.	4.90
2	INHERITANCE TAXES MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO KEEP FARM IN FAMILY.	4.70
3	FARM FAMILIES SHOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE A STANDARD OF LIVING COMPARABLE TO THEIR CITY COUNTERPARTS.	4.40
4	FARM FAMILY LIVING COSTS TOO HIGH IN COMPARISON TO NET INCOME.	4.40
5	MORE CONSUMER EDUCATION OF FARM PROBLEMS.	4.20
6	COSTS AND AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH INSURANCE.	4.14
7	URBAN SPRAWL REDUCES AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION, CHANGES STANDARDS FOR LIVESTOCK FARMING AND RAISES LAND PRICES.	4.13
8	LACK OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR NEW FARMERS.	4.00
9	DIFFICULTY IN FINANCING RURAL SCHOOLS TO MEET STATE REQUIREMENTS.	3.57
10	ON USE OF FOOD STAMPS - FARMERS ARE PENALIZED BECAUSE THEY RAISE SOME OF THEIR FOOD.	3.56





## REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

### FARM FAMILY LIVING - QUALITY OF LIFE (CONT'D)

11	NEED TO MAINTAIN RURAL FAMILY VALUES AND LIFE STYLE AGAINST EVER INCREASING URBANIZATION OF FARM COMMUNITIES.	3.40
12	COSTS AND AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH CARE.	3.38
13	YOUNG FARMERS NEED MORE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.	3.33
14	LOANS FROM FHA FOR LAND AND HOME IMPROVEMENT PROCESSED TOO SLOWLY.	3.20
15	OFF-FARM JOBS INTERFARE WITH FAMILY LIFE.	3.20
16	CHANGING ROLE OF RURAL LIFE - WIFE, HUSBAND, CHILDREN.	3.00
17	LACK OF COORDINATION IN ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN AGENCIES (CETA, FMHA, ETC.).	3.00
18	BETTER AGENCY PUBLIC AWARENESS.	3.00
19	HIGH LABOR COSTS PREVENT LEISURE TIME.	2.63
20	LACK OF INFORMATION TO FARMERS FOR WINTERIZATION.	2.25



# REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

## WORKING GROUP II

### PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

PROBLEM RANKS	PROBLEM DESCRIPTION	PROBLEM RATING
1	INFLATION.	4.78
2	TAXES ARE TOO HIGH AND ARE INEQUITABLE.	4.70
3	FARMERS' COSTS ARE TOO HIGH IN RELATION TO PRICES RECEIVED.	4.67
4	SMALL FARMERS HAVE POOR REPRESENTATION IN FARM ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS.	4.67
5	FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN LAND AND IMPORTS ARE ADVERSELY AFFECTING FARMING.	4.50
6	UNABLE TO GENERATE ENOUGH NET INCOME ON SMALL FARMS.	4.44
7	GOVERNMENT CHEAP FOOD POLICY.	4.44
8	HIRING PART-TIME LABOR IS TOO DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS.	4.13
9	SMALL FARMERS ARE BEING CROWDED OUT BY LARGE CORPORATIONS AND INVESTORS.	4.11
10	AGRICULTURE TIED TOO CLOSE TO POLITICS.	4.00





## REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

### PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT (CONT'D)

11	NEED FARM EQUIPMENT DEVELOPED FOR SMALL FARMER AT A MORE REASONABLE PRICE.	3.88
12	INDUSTRY FAVORS THE LARGE FARMS.	3.88
13	NEED MORE PROTECTION FROM CONTAMINANTS, SUCH AS PBB, ECT.	3.71
14	COST OF MACHINERY FOR EFFICIENT OPERATION TOO HIGH.	3.67
15	CHEMICAL PATENTS SHOULD BE LENGTHENED TO REDUCE COSTS TO SMALL FARM CONSUMER.	3.63
16	LARGE FARMERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO GET THEIR PROBLEMS RESEARCHED THAN ARE SMALLER FARMERS.	3.56
17	UNABLE TO GET PRICE BREAK ON PURCHASE OF GOODS LIKE LARGE OPERATORS AND CORPORATIONS.	3.50
18	MORE INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY NEEDED WHICH ARE TAILORED TO SMALL FARMERS.	3.44
19	HIGH COST AND AVAILABILITY OF LABOR AND PART-TIME HELP.	3.44
20	RESEARCH AND INFORMATION NEEDED ON COSTS TO PRODUCE CERTAIN CROPS AND LIVESTOCK.	3.43



# REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

## WORKING GROUP III

### LAND, CAPITAL AND CREDIT

PROBLEM RANKS	PROBLEM DESCRIPTION	PROBLEM RATING
1	SMALL FARMERS NEED LOWER INTEREST RATE.	4.77
2	FEDERAL LOANS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO SMALL FARMERS AT LONG-TERM, LOW INTEREST RATES.	4.77
3	NEED TO BE ABLE TO PASS ALONG LAND AND CHATTEL TO HEIRS DURING A RETIRING FARMER'S LIFETIME WITHOUT SEVERE TAX PENALTIES.	4.77
4	INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURAL LAND BY PERSONS, CORPORATIONS OR FOREIGN INTERESTS NOT ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN FARMING AND/OR RESIDING IN THOSE LOCAL COMMUNITIES CREATES THESE PROBLEMS: A. SETS LAND VALUES AT A SPECULATIVE LEVEL, B. SMALL AND YOUNG FARMERS ARE RULED OUT AS TENENTS, C. LOSS OF CAPITAL TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, D. LACK OF CONCERN FOR SOIL CONSERVATION, E. LACK OF CONCERN FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY, AND F. LOSS OF TAX REVENUE FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.	4.77
5	FMHA BALLOON PAYMENT PAYBACKS ON INTEREST AND PRINCIPAL ARE LUMPED WITHOUT PRODUCER INPUT.	4.64
6	SMALL FARMERS HAVE INADEQUATE OPERATING CAPITAL.	4.62
7	CEILING TOO SMALL, PAY BACK PERIOD TOO SHORT ON FMHA OPERATING LOANS.	4.50
8	LACK OF FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION TO PROTECT SMALL FAMILY FARMERS.	4.46
9	FARM INCOME DOESN'T KEEP PACE WITH INFLATION.	4.38
10	INTERNATIONAL BANKING CONCERNS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ARE REAPING THE BENEFITS OF AGRICULTURE THROUGH ABUSIVE INTEREST RATES CONDONED BY STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS.	4.38





## REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

### LAND, CAPITAL AND CREDIT (CONT'D)

- |    |  |      |
|----|--|------|
| 11 | SMALL FARMERS HAVE INADEQUATE LONG-TERM CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES<br>IN RELATION TO LARGE FARMERS.                                      | 4.31 |
| 12 | FMHA SECURITY REQUIREMENTS ARE TOO EXCESSIVE.  | 4.25 |
| 13 | OUTSIDE INVESTMENT IS ENCOURAGED THROUGH PRESENT TAX POLICIES.   | 4.25 |
| 14 | ASCS AND SCS LAND DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES DISCRIMINATE<br>AGAINST SMALL FARMERS.   | 4.25 |
| 15 | PREJUDICE AGAINST SMALL FARMERS, MINORITIES, AND WOMEN :IN<br>GRANTING PCA AND FEDERAL LAND BANK LOANS -- A CLOSED CLUB<br>SYSTEM. | 4.23 |
| 16 | CAPITAL GAINS AND INHERITANCE TAXES ARE UNFAIR TO SMALL FARMERS.   | 4.23 |
| 17 | HAS TO BE A FAIR RETURN ON EQUITY.   | 4.23 |
| 18 | GOVERNMENT POLICY MAKERS DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT OUTSIDE<br>INVESTORS AFFECT LAND PRICES MORE THAN PRICE OF COMMODITY<br>PRODUCED.   | 4.23 |
| 19 | INABILITY TO ACQUIRE CAPITAL ASSETS DUE TO NARROW OR NON-<br>EXISTENT PROFIT MARGIN.   | 4.23 |
| 20 | EMINENT DOMAIN POLICIES ARE AGAINST SMALL FARMERS AND PROPER<br>LAND USE.  | 4.17 |



# REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

## WORKING GROUP IV

### MARKETING

PROBLEM RANKS	PROBLEM DESCRIPTION	PROBLEM RATING
1	NEED ADEQUATE STORAGE AND SHIPMENT FACILITIES.	4.08
2	FARMERS SHOULD RECEIVE AN EQUITABLE RETURN ON THEIR INVESTMENT.	4.08
3	MAJOR GRAIN MARKETING COMPANIES SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED.	4.00
4	CHEAP FOOD POLICY IS UNFAIR TO FARMERS.	4.00
5	NEED CONSTANT MARKET PRICE AND STABLE INCOME.	4.00
6	IMPORT CONTROLS SHOULD BE GEARED TO STABILIZING THE MARKET FOR QUALITY, QUOTAS, TARIFFS, AND IDENTIFICATION OF IMPORT GOODS.	3.77
7	FARMERS UNABLE TO CONTROL PRICES OF THEIR PRODUCTS.	3.69
8	GRAIN GRADES AND STANDARDS NEED TO BE INVESTIGATED	3.69
9	UNIONIZED LABOR HAS TOO MUCH INFLUENCE ON FARM PRICES.	3.58
10	NEED A COMPETITIVE DOMESTIC MARKET SYSTEM FOR AGRICULTURE.	3.58





## REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

### MARKETING (CONT'D)

- |    |   |      |
|----|---|------|
| 11 | TOO MUCH SPECULATION LEADS TO FLUCTUATIONS OF PRICES -- NEED MORE REGULATION ON FUTURE'S SPECULATION.   | 3.54 |
| 12 | SMALL FARMERS NEED FREE EXPORT MARKET AT PRICES COMPETITIVE WITH INTERNATIONAL MARKETS -- NO EMBARGOES. | 3.33 |
| 13 | PRICES RECEIVED FOR FARM PRODUCTS ARE NOT FAIR.   | 3.27 |
| 14 | THERE SHOULD BE LESS RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN TRADE OF AMERICAN PRODUCE.                                 | 3.25 |
| 15 | BETTER MARKETING AND PURCHASING COOPERATIVES NEEDED FOR SMALL FARMS.                                    | 3.25 |
| 16 | RESEARCH NEEDED ON NEW MARKETING METHODS AND TECHNIQUE.   | 3.23 |
| 17 | SMALL FARMERS ARE UNABLE TO COMPETE WITH VOLUME BUYING AND SELLING BY LARGE FARMERS AND CORPORATIONS.   | 2.92 |
| 18 | LARGER FARMS, CORPORATIONS, AND TRENDS TOWARD VERTICAL INTEGRATION DOMINATE THE MARKET.                 | 2.91 |



# REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

## WORKING GROUP V

### ENERGY

ENERGY		
PROBLEM RANKS	PROBLEM DESCRIPTION	PROBLEM RATING
1	NEED MORE RESEARCH AND INFORMATION ON SOLAR, GASAHOL, METHANE, AND WIND AS APPLIES TO SMALL FARMS.	4.56
2	LACK OF ADEQUATELY FUNDED INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ON ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES AND TECHNIQUES FOR SMALL FARMERS.	4.38
3	SMALL FARMERS DON'T HEAR ABOUT RESEARCH AND PROGRAMS IN ENERGY CONSERVATION AND ORGANIC FARMING AND LEGUMES -- INFORMATION OUTREACH.	4.25
4	MORE RESEARCH NEEDED ON USE OF ELECTRICAL POWER FROM OTHER SOURCES.	4.14
5	SMALL FARMERS NEED A STRONGER VOICE IN ENERGY RESEARCH AND UTILIZATION.	4.00
6	INADEQUATE INFORMATION ON HOW FARMERS CAN SAVE ENERGY.	4.00
7	HIGH AND EXECESSIVE FUEL COSTS IN RELATION TO FARM INCOME.	4.00
8	SMALL FARMERS NEED TO BE ABLE TO IMPROVE HOUSING AND OTHER FACILITIES TO CONSERVE ENERGY AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE.	3.90
9	NEED MORE TAX INCENTIVES AND CREDITS FOR ALTERNA-TIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY FOR FARMS.	3.78
10	LACK OF NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY-PRIORITY.	3.75





## REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

ENERGY (CONT'D)

11	POTENTIAL OF ORGANIC FARMING TECHNIQUES IS NEGLECTED BY USDA.	3.75
12	SET-ASIDE PROGRAMS SHOULD EXPLORE PRODUCTION AND MARKETS FOR ENERGY SOURCES, I.E. GASAHOL.	3.67
13	LACK OF PRIORITY GIVEN TO FOOD PRODUCTION BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN TIMES OF BOYCOTTS OR ENERGY SHORTAGE.	3.67
14	NEED MORE EMPHASIS ON DECENTRALIZED ENERGY RELE- VANT TO ENERGY NEEDS OF SMALL FARMERS.	3.63
15	RIGHTS OF EMINENT DOMAIN (I.E. POWER LINE) HURT SMALL FARMS.	3.56
16	NEED MORE RESEARCH ON MORE EFFICIENT POWER UNITS.	3.25
17	WE NEED TO BE ASSURED OF A SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF NATURAL GAS IN THE FUTURE.	3.14
18	NATURAL GAS SHOULD BE DEREGULATED.	3.11



## REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

### WORKING GROUP VI

#### COMMUNITY SERVICES

PROBLEM RANKS	PROBLEM DESCRIPTION	PROBLEM RATING
1	MORE SMALL FARMER REPRESENTATION ON COUNTY, STATE AND FEDERAL AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES.	5.00
2	EXTENSION PROGRAMS AND FUNDING SHOULD NOT BE CUT BACK.	4.11
3	EXTENSION SERVICE NEEDS TO GIVE MORE INFORMATION DIRECTED AT SMALL FARMERS.	4.00
4	LACK OF ADEQUATE MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL CARE.	3.71
5	NEED DECENTRALIZED COMMUNITY SERVICES IN RURAL SERVICE CENTERS - UTILIZE VACANT SCHOOLS AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES.	3.44
6	YOUNG FARMERS NEED MORE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.	3.38
7	URBAN ENCROACHMENT MEANS FARMERS GET "FLACK" FOR AIR POLLUTION WHEN FARMERS WERE THERE FIRST.	3.22
8	CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOLS AND ADEQUATE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.	3.14
9	ADULT EDUCATION COURSES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION.	3.14
10	LACK OF ADEQUATE LAW ENFORCEMENT.	3.14



## REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

### COMMUNITY SERVICES (CONT'D)

11	WELFARE AND FOOD STAMPS NOT AVAILABLE TO FARMERS - ALSO DIFFICULT TO APPLY FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF.	3.00
12	LEGAL SERVICES COSTS TOO HIGH.	2.88
13	AVAILABILITY OF SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR RURAL PEOPLE.	2.67
14	SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS -- BUS WON'T COME CLOSE ENOUGH.	2.63
15	JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN RURAL AREAS.	2.00
16	DECLINE IN CHURCHES IN RURAL AREAS.	1.75





# REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

## WORKING GROUP VII

### GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

PROBLEM RANKS	PROBLEM DESCRIPTION	PROBLEM RATING
1	CHEAP FOOD POLICY, AT THE EXPENSE OF THE FARMER MUST BE ELIMINATED.	4.62
2	UNREALISTIC CONTROL ON FARMERS BY USDA, EPA AND OSHA.	4.38
3	GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT ALLOW IMPORTS TO DEPRESS DOMESTIC FREE MARKET.	4.38
4	NEED NATIONAL POLICY TO KEEP YOUNG FARMERS IN THE COUNTRY.	4.36
5	NEED FOR ACCURATE LABELLING OF AGRICULTURAL PRO- DUCTS SOLD IN THE U.S. MARKET, INCLUDING ALL IM- PORTED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.	4.17
6	GOVERNMENT SPENDING CAUSES INFLATION.	4.15
7	GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS, MUST REFORM TAXATION SO THAT INFLATION DOES NOT RESULT IN PAYMENT OF IN- CREASED TAXES--THAT IS, INCOME SHOULD BE REDUCED TO PARITY BASE YEAR LEVELS AND THEN TAXED AT THOSE LEVELS.	4.15
8	FMHA TAKES TOO LONG TO PROCESS LOANS AND SHOULD HELP FARMERS WITH HOME LOANS AND WITH MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE AFTER A LOAN IS MADE.	4.08
9	ELIMINATE CONFLICT BETWEEN FEDERAL REGULATIONS AFFECTING AGRICULTURE.	4.08
10	NEED MORE CONTROL OF AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.	4.00



## REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

### GOVERNMENT RELATIONS (CONT'D)

- |    |  |      |
|----|--|------|
| 11 | FEDERAL FARM PROGRAMS ARE NOW SET UP TO BENEFIT CONSUMERS AND POLITICIANS RATHER THAN TO GIVE FARMERS A FAIR PRICE.  | 3.92 |
| 12 | IF THERE ARE TO BE GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS OF FARM PRODUCTION, THEY SHOULD PROTECT FARMERS BY BEING SET UP TO GIVE FARMERS ENOUGH TIME TO MAKE DECISIONS.                                       | 3.85 |
| 13 | ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER SAFETY REGULATIONS OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS ARE TOO RESTRICTIVE, SCARE CONSUMERS AND SHOULD BE REFORMED, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE EXPERIENCE OF AGRICULTURAL USERS. | 3.77 |
| 14 | STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS ARE BECOMING TOO INVOLVED IN PRIVATE FARM BUSINESS.  | 3.69 |
| 15 | LACK OF ANY COHERENT FEDERAL POLICY ON SMALL FARMS.  | 3.62 |
| 16 | FEDERALLY REGULATED AND INFLUENCED INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING LAND GRANT COLLEGES, SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO ASSIST SMALL FARMERS.  | 3.62 |
| 17 | ASCS COST-SHARING PRACTICES SHOULD HAVE PRIORITIES REVIEWED.   | 3.38 |
| 18 | GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS ARE TOO COMPLEX AND TECHNICAL.   | 3.38 |
| 19 | THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT EDUCATE CONSUMERS ABOUT THE PERCENTAGE OF RETAIL FOOD PRICE WHICH THE FARMER RECEIVES.   | 3.38 |
| 20 | FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD PHASE IN 95-100% PARITY OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD.   | 3.33 |



# REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

## WORKING GROUP VIII

### ALTERNATE SOURCES OF INCOME

PROBLEM RANKS	PROBLEM DESCRIPTION	PROBLEM RATING
1	SUGGESTIONS NEEDED ON SELF-HELP ON FARM PROJECTS.	4.25
2	EXTRA INCOME JOBS ARE NEEDED TO SUPPLEMENT FARM INCOME.	4.00
3	OFF-FARM JOBS OFTEN INTERFERE WITH TAKING CARE OF FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES. OFTEN-TIMES THE WIFE TAKING ON OFF-FARM JOB HAS TO NEGLECT HOUSEHOLD CHORES AND CHILDREN.	4.00
4	SUPPLEMENTAL SOURCES OF INCOME NEEDED FOR FARM FAMILY MEMBERS ON SMALL FARMS.	3.43
5	RESEARCH NEEDED ON DEVELOPMENT OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN RURAL AREAS.	3.43
6	RESEARCH NEEDED ON SOURCES OF INCOME DURING SLACK SEASON ON FARM.	3.38
7	GOVERNMENT RED TAPE KEEPS SMALL BUSINESSES IN RURAL AREAS FROM HIRING MORE PEOPLE.	3.38
8	EXPERT ADVICE TO EXPLORE CONSEQUENCES AND/OR ADVANTAGES/DISADVANTAGES OF WORKING OFF-FARM; AND TO EXPLORE ALL ALTERNATIVES FOR GENERATING MORE INCOME.	3.25
9	ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR MANAGING FARM AND FAMILY AFFAIRS WHEN HOLDING OFF-FARM JOBS.	3.25
10	FAVORABLE TAX BASE NEEDED TO ATTRACT INDUSTRY TO RURAL AREAS.	2.71





REGIONAL  
SMALL FARMS  
CONFERENCE

ALTERNATE SOURCES OF INCOME (CONT'D)

11    NEED RELIABLE SOURCES OF SEASONAL OFF-FARM INCOME.    2.63

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